



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5  
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD  
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

SEP 02 2014

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

E-19J

Helene Scalliet  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries  
1305 East-West Highway (Room 11164)  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

**RE: Final Environmental Impact Statement, Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary  
Boundary Expansion – CEQ#20140208**

Dear Ms. Scalliet:

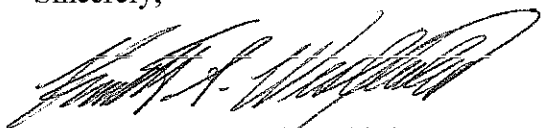
The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has received the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary (TBNMS) Boundary Expansion by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

The overall goal of the project is to provide long-term protection of additional historic shipwrecks of special national significance by expanding TBNMS's current boundaries. The proposed action will benefit the long-term protection and management of the conservation, recreational, research, educational, and historic qualities of the area. NOAA has proposed two action alternatives to meet the project's goals. The FEIS describes the benefits of Alternative C, the Preferred Alternative, which includes the expansion of the current boundary of 448 square miles to an area of 4,300 square miles. This boundary expansion will add 47 known shipwrecks and 60 suspected shipwrecks to the TBNMS area.

EPA reviewed the FEIS pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA Implementing Regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508), and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act. In our June 27, 2013 comment letter on the Draft EIS, we had no issues that warranted comment and therefore assigned a rating of LO – Lack of Objections. EPA continues to have no objections to the proposed preferred alternative.

Please feel free to contact Robert O'Brien of my staff at 312-886-3283 or by e-mail at [Obrien.robert@epa.gov](mailto:Obrien.robert@epa.gov) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kenneth A. Westlake", written in a cursive style.

Kenneth A. Westlake, Chief  
NEPA Implementation Section  
Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance